

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 XMB-02 OPIC-03 /096 W
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P 241325Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5788

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 0252

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TU

SUBJ: GOT DEMANDS FOR USE OF ATAS REFINERY TANK FARM AND FACILITIES

REF: (A) ISTANBUL 0045; (B) ANKARA 660

SUMMARY: MOBIL OIL BELIEVES GOT DEMANDING USE OF ATAS
TANK FARM FACILITIES ON COST RECOVERY BASIS TO STORE FUEL OIL
AND OTHER REFINED PRODUCTS TO BE IMPORTED BY TPAO. COMPANY
UNAWARE OF ANY EFFORT TO DATE TO NATIONALIZE EITHER REFINERY
OR FACILITIES. END SUMMARY.

1. LOCAL MOBIL REPRESENTATIVE TOLD CONGENOFF THAT MOBIL
EXPECTING, BUT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED, LETTER FROM MINISTRY OF
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR USE
BY GOT OF ATAS STORAGE AND FILLING FACILITIES ON COST RECOVERY
BASIS AND DEMANDING A RESPONSE FROM MOBIL WITHIN 48 HOURS.
LETTER REPORTEDLY ALSO INFORMS MOBIL THAT IF IT DOES NOT AGREE
TO USE OF FACILITIES THEN GOT WILL INVOKE MARTIAL LAW PROVISIONS.
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HE SAID MOBIL LAWYERS BELIEVE THAT SINCE ICEL PROVINCE IS UNDER

MARTIAL LAW, AUTHORITIES LEGALLY HAVE RIGHT TO DIRECT THE MANAGEMENT OF ATAS TO MAKE ITS FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN LINE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR SEEING THAT INDISPENSABLE COMMODITIES AND SUPPLIES ARE UNINTERRUPTED.

2. MOBIL REP BELIEVED THAT GOT ACTION PROMPTED BY NEED TO IMPORT FUEL OIL AND OTHER FINISHED PRODUCTS AS A RESULT OF ATAS REFINERY SHORTFALL. IN FACT, HE SAID MOBIL RECENTLY HAD SUBMITTED APPLICATION TO IMPORT FUEL OIL, BUT GOT APPARENTLY PREFERRED TO DO THIS ITSELF. ATAS REFINERY REPS (BP, MOBIL, SHELL) HE SAID, HAD OBTAINED VERBAL ASSURANCES THAT 48-HOUR DEADLINE WOULD BE EXTENDED UNTIL THE EVENING OF JAN. 28 IN ORDER TO PERMIT ATAS BOARD MEMBERS, SOME OF WHOM NOW OUT OF COUNTRY, TO MEET AND TAKE DECISION ON GOT REQUEST.

3. MOBIL REP NOTED THAT ACTION IS ADDITIONAL CHAPTER IN STRUGGLE BETWEEN FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES AND TURKISH GOVERNMENT OVER PRICE OF IMPORTED CRUDE, BUT NOTED THAT THIS WAS LIMITED STEP ON PARTY OF GOT WITH NO THREAT AT MOMENT TO NATIONALIZE EITHER REFINERY OR FACILITIES.

4. COMMENT: WE SHARE MOBIL'S ASSESSMENT THAT LATEST GOT ACTION IS A LOW-KEY AND LIMITED RESPONSE, WHICH IS AIMED AT AVERTING POSSIBLE SHORTAGE OF REFINED PRODUCTS TO CUSTOMERS IN SOUTHERN TURKEY. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT GOT ACTION DOES NOT AFFECT LEVEL OF OPERATION OF REFINERY WHICH FOR TECHNICAL REASONS IS CLOSED DOWN FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS. NOR HAS THE GOT ORDERED MOBIL TO BEGIN IMPORTING CRUDE OIL AS HAS BEEN REPORTED WIDELY IN THE PRESS.
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